

# Wisconsin Department of Health Services Situation Report #8 2009 H1N1 Flu Outbreak

May 5, 2009 1530 hours

**OVERVIEW** – A public health emergency remains in effect in Wisconsin in response to the presence of Influenza A (H1N1) in the state. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and its many partners continue the aggressive response to an expanding outbreak caused by H1N1 flu. Our primary goals are to:

- Reduce transmission and illness severity.
- Provide information to help public health officials, health care providers, state and local officials, and the public understand and take steps to address this emergency.

The World Health Organization maintains its pandemic alert at Level 5, its second-highest level. Level 6 indicates a full scale pandemic. Level 5 means all countries should be activating their pandemic preparedness plans. CDC maintains its advisory on travel to Mexico-- recommends postponement of nonessential travel.

With modified policy issued today, CDC no longer recommends that communities with a laboratory-confirmed case of influenza H1N1 consider adopting school dismissal or childcare closure measures. Rather, CDC now recommends:

- implementation of measures that focus on keeping all student, faculty and staff with symptoms of influenza out of schools and childcare facilities during their period of illness and recuperation, when they are potentially infectious to others.
- Schools that were closed based on previous guidance related to this outbreak may reopen.

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health notified Local Health Departments of this new policy. More information is available at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/k12\_dismissal.htm

- DPH is in the process of updating its school guidance to reflect the new CDC recommendations and are contacting local health departments who have made the decision to close schools.
- Ultimately, the decision on when to reopen or close a school is the decision of the local health department and the local school district.

### **Case Status**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed case count for Wisconsin is now five. Two cases are from Milwaukee County; Adams County, Ozaukee County, and Sheboygan County each have one.
- CDC today reported 403 laboratory-confirmed cases in the U.S., including cases in 38 states. It is now relatively widespread in the U.S.
- The only swine flu-related death in the U.S. was reported in Texas—a 22-month old child visiting from Mexico.
- The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene can now confirm influenza A (H1N1). Specimens no longer need to be sent to CDC for confirmation. This is an important addition to our laboratory capacity. Once the state lab validates H1N1 flu test results from Milwaukee HD lab, Kelly Henrickson lab, and Marshfield, all three labs will be approved to report confirmed H1N1

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flu. This added capacity improves our ability to track the epidemic. It also means the number of confirmed cases will go up quickly over the next few days as these new labs come on line.

# Wisconsin probable and confirmed case counts by county (as of May 5, 2009--1500 Hrs)

County	Confirmed	Probable	Total
Adams	1	0	1
Jefferson	0	1	1
Kenosha	0	1	1
Milwaukee	2	66	68
Ozaukee	1	0	1
Polk	0	1	1
Racine	0	3	3
Rock	0	2	2
Sheboygan	1	1	2
Waukesha	0	5	5
County ID pending	0	39	39
Total (10)	5	119*	124

<sup>\*1</sup> case reported as probable by Dane County is still under investigation.

• State health officials and local health departments continue to work closely with clinical providers to identify and test suspect cases. For more details on cases please visit: <a href="http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/">http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/</a>

# **DPH Incident Command**

- On Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Division of Public Health learned that a new influenza virus now designated as 2009 H1N1 Flu had infected people in California, Texas, and Mexico. The Division of Public Health activated its Incident Command structure Friday evening and opened its Emergency Operations Center on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Tom Sieger, Division of Public Health Deputy Administrator, currently serves as Incident Commander.
- DPH EOC phone bank (Hours 0800-1700 daily, 0800 –1700 weekends) is operational and responding to questions from clinicians, hospitals, healthcare providers, and citizens.
- Communications Activities
  - o "211 Wisconsin" is answering general calls related to H1N1 influenza. 211 has multilingual capability. 211 continues to respond to general questions, has translators available and has added staff for peak time periods. Call volume reported by 211
    - Monday—93 calls
    - Calls generally spike in the early evening and again after the news
    - TV stations are publicizing 211 as a resource for questions
  - o The number of visits for the http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/ on Monday, 5/4/09 was 17,181.
  - o Four webcasts in American Sign Language are posted on the Pandemic website.
  - o Expanded Communications team is addressing needed communication tools for groups with emerging interest, i.e. parents in schools that are closed.
  - o Posting updated documents and information to the pandemic website is increasing as more guidance documents are revised and new ones become available.
  - H1N1 flu informational materials in Spanish and Hmong have been posted on the www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov DPH continues work on translating all general public documents on the site.

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- o Coordinating with DPI on messaging for schools.
- Specific medical professionals already registered with Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR) Medical Reserve Unit are being contacted for activation. SE WI Medical Reserve Corps Unit was activated to assist City of Milwaukee Call Center over the weekend.

# CDC Updates to Guidance as of 1530 hours

Guidance for Schools, Colleges and University

- School (K 12) Dismissal and Childcare Facilities May 5
  - o School closing guidelines and recommendations have changed extensively

#### Clinician Guidance

- <u>Identifying and Caring For Patients</u> May 5
  - o Change in Section "Which patients should be tested for novel influenza A:
    - Test those with symptoms, priority testing for persons
      - Who require hospitalization
      - Who at high risk for sever disease
  - o *New section*: "Medical care for patients with novel influenza A (H1N1) virus"
    - Stating that "not all patients with suspected H1N1 infection need to be seen by a health car provider. Patients with severe illness and those at high risk for complications from influenza should contact their medical provider or seek medical care."

# **Protection of Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers**

- Guidance for Employers May 5
- Guidance to Assist State and Local Health Departments May 5

# Note:

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ for the most current CDC guidance for clinicians and professionals

# **DPH Regional Office activities**

Northern Region: Staff is updating NRO local health departments with the number of Novel Influenza A test submitted/performed. NRO is working with the EOC to consider staging PPE & antiviral materials in the regional office based on requests from a local health department and Tribe. NRO will connect with Northwoods Consortium on potential PPE available in the region. DCF, Div. of Early Care and Education will notify NRO if there are any day care closings due to H1N1. Southern Region: Providing staff support to the ICS Communications committee. Scheduling, staffing, training and managing call center personnel. Providing Spanish translation service to the call center. Contacting LHDs to assess status responding to H1N1 situation in their counties and need for technical assistance. Updating LHDs regarding H1N1 cases in their jurisdictions.

**South Eastern Region:** There are currently 30 schools in Milwaukee County that are closed due to H1N1, 5 schools in Waukesha County, 1 school in Racine County. Calls are being received on where to send underinsured and uninsured individuals. Clinics and emergency rooms are reporting they are still swamped. The quarantine of school age children from closed schools is a growing concern.

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*Western Region*: Communicating with LHDs in region. First Probable in region in Polk County. Supported communication and coordination with central office and school. Providing follow-up/support to county health department Incident Command. Currently doing active surveillance connected to school exposure. Conversations with border counties related to MN/WI issue for school closure, testing inconsistencies.

# **Strategic National Stockpile**

- SNS deliveries to Wisconsin are complete.
- FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorization for the use of Tamiflu and Relenza
- FDA has revised the PREP Act to cover medical products used for the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.
- CDC has stated there is no shortage of antiviral drugs in the commercial pharmacy supply chain.